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**RESTORATION OF ISRAEL**  
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**RESTORATION OF ISRAEL**

**GENESIS 12**

Now the Lord had said to Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee; And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. So Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came. And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanites was then in the land; and there builded he an altar unto the Lord who appeared unto him. And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the Lord, and called upon the name of the Lord. And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the south. And there was a famine in the land: and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine was grievous in the land. And it came to pass, when he was come near to enter into Egypt, that he said

unto Sarai his wife, Behold, now, I know that thou art a fair woman to look upon: Therefore it shall come to pass, when the Egyptians shall see thee, that they shall say, This is his wife: and they will kill me, but they will save thee alive. Say, I pray thee, thou art my sister: that it may be well with me for thy sake; and my soul shall live because of thee. And it came to pass, that, when Abram was come into Egypt, the Egyptians beheld the woman that she was very fair. The princes also of Pharaoh's house. And he entreated Abram well for her sake: and he had sheep, and oxen, and asses, and menservants, and she asses and camels. And the Lord plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai Abram's wife. And Pharaoh called Abram, and said, what is this that thou hast done unto me? Why didst thou not tell me that she was thy wife? Why saidest thou, She is my sister? So I might have taken her to me to wife: now therefore behold thy wife, take her, and go thy way. And Pharaoh commanded his men concerning him; and they sent him away, and his wife, and all that he had.

I think those of you who have read your Bible just a little, who read it enough to know what it is all about, will find that the Bible is a record of God's creation of a beautiful universe, and of God's placing in the center of that universe, so far as you and I are concerned, a man. Giving him an help-mate called, "woman". Placing him in a lovely garden, called the "Garden of Eden". Leaving him there to dress and keep that garden. Very soon man had sinned, had gone away from God. By that fall from God man brought a thing into the race that the theologians call depravity. That word "depravity" literally means "from a crooked beginning". That depravity coming into the race has caused all the difficulty, bloodshed, turmoil, wars, and sins that you and I have had to put up with, and other folk have had to put up with, and so it will be until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I think that you and I also are sufficiently aware of the fact this afternoon that God somewhere in his great and powerful and omniscient mind, perfected a plan of redemption whereby he could bring that universe back to himself, redeeming that man from all corruption and setting him free from all the marks of sin and carnality, bringing him back into that glorious relationship with God his father that would not only make him the child of God, but would make him a joint heir with God's own son in the glory that is to come hereafter. I think we 'all are sufficiently aware of the fact, that in that marvelous plan of redemption there had to be "a sin bearer", there had to be "someone" to take the place of sinful man. In the fullness of time God sent his only begotten son, to be born of a Jewish virgin Mary, to give himself on the cross that he might redeem and ransom us from all iniquity and "purify unto himself a peculiar people zealous of good works". I think that we are further aware of the fact, that God made a selection of a race of people. In that selection of a people God chose to bless the universe. In making that selection of a nation of people, God reached his hand out into a place called Ur, in the land of the Chaldees. Back in those distant days God spoke to a man named Abram and said to Abram, "I want you to get out of your native land, turn your back on your kindred and everyone connected with you, and come to a land that I will vouchsafe to give you. I will make you a great nation, and I will exalt your name."

Without hesitation Abram obeyed God and took his bride by the name of Sarai and departed out across the desert. Always my imagination can run high when I think of that. I see him shade her face from the sandstorm by day, draw his arm tightly around her by night, while the jackals barked on the hillside around in the chill of that mideastern night. I can see them by and by

pitch their tent beneath the old oak tree in the plains of Mamre. God Almighty had made the first step in bringing down to this world the blessings of God.

Several times in the book of Genesis, God records the fact of a re-emphasizing of his covenant with Abraham. On one occasion He called Abraham out under the stars at night, and challenged Abraham to count the stars, and when Abraham told him he could not, God informed him that he would make of his seed that great a nation. Another time God seemed to challenge him about the sands along the seashore and said, "As they are innumerable to man, I will make your seed in all generations". Therefore God had a plan for the Jewish people.

God gave a very distinct warning in the third verse of the twelfth chapter of Genesis, and instructed you, and instructed me, not to curse the Jewish people. For he said if we curse the Jews, God would let trouble fall on us, and He said if we would bless his people God would bless us. Trace history down across the ages and you will find that statement to have proven true time and time again. No nation has ever laid it's hand on God's chosen people and escaped the wrath of God. It was so in the days of the Old Testament, it was so in the medieval days, it is so today. You and I have to deal with a race of people called 'God's "holy people" '.

Then in the workings of God for his holy people he selected a land that 'we call the land of Canaan. God gave that land to the Jews. He said, "It is yours and your seed forever after you shall have it".

It is known in modern geography as Palestine. It is considerably smaller today than "the royal grant" to Abraham. In Genesis 15, God gave the exact survey of "the land" and committed the title thereof to Abraham and his seed forever in Genesis 15:18-21. In that passage from our Bible we read the divinely set boundaries of "this land". It is of note that the boundaries include a greater tract of land than the small, modern Palestine along the Mediterranean Sea. Another noteworthy fact to the students of Bible prophecy is that the children of Israel have never in all their past history occupied all "this land". The "royal grant" of Genesis 15:18 reads: "In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, unto thy seed have I given this land, from the River of Egypt unto the great river, the river of Euphrates."

Now a scrutiny of a map of the mid-east will disclose a vast territory from the Nile River in Egypt to the Babylonian river Euphrates that Israel has never yet held as its conquered inheritance. I am convinced that God will keep his word. He has never yet broken it once! One glad day Israel will inherit, control, own and abide in all "this land", her "royal grant" from her theocratic king, Jehovah. Nobody, be it the United Nations or anyone else has the right to go in and say he will give this to the Arabs and this to the Jews. God said I'll give this "to the seed" of Abraham!

Then the question arises did not Abraham have a son named Isaac and Isaac had two sons and both of those sons have a right to the land? That would look to be the case on the surface, but if you will read the Bible, you will find out that the bond-woman and her son were to be cast out, and not counted in the lineage of the inheritance. (Gen. 21:10-12) (Gal. 4:30-31). That being the case, God allowed that land of Canaan to fall directly to a Jewish people. Therefore, God having a plan

about his land and is going to fulfill that plan just 'as literally as he has fulfilled each one of his promises given in the Bible.

Then also you will notice a bit further, that everywhere God speaks of distances and directions in the Bible, he speaks of them from the city called Jerusalem. Anything that is spoken of in the Bible as being north, seems always to be north from the point of Jerusalem. Anything south, seems to be south from the point of Jerusalem. East or west would follow the same kind of reasoning. Bearing that in our minds, we would see that God someday intends to make Jerusalem the very hub of the entire universe when he sets up his glorious millennial throne to bless his people and us along with them.

Now in the history of God, God let his people inhabit that land. They fell away from God, they backslid on so many occasions that the Lord has had to allow them to be scattered across the world in every direction. They have been scattered for a number of years. This scattering is God's chastisement for the sins of His elect. If you will read Hebrews 12, you will see this very clearly shown.

In your day and my day we have seen them gradually coming back to the land of Palestine. In the last five years this regathering has been accentuated until they have gone back in great flocks to their homeland. It appears that God is getting ready to do something marvelous and something glorious in this day in which we live.

Now if you will turn in your Bibles to the book of Ezekiel, chapter 37, you will find there are two things that seem to apply to this very day wherein you and I are living. You will remember that God told Ezekiel to go out into the midst of a valley. A valley always denotes a depression between two high places. It would seem to me that a valley denotes a low point in the fortunes on anyone down in that valley. God said to Ezekiel, "Go out in the valley". That valley he found to be filled with dry bones. And the records said, "They were very dry", seeming to indicate that they had lain there a long time, scattered by the earthquakes, pulled about by the wild beasts, lying there separated, disjointed, disconnected and strewn about the dry valley. The word of the Lord came to Ezekiel and said, "Son of man can these dry bones live?" Ezekiel said, "Thou knowest, oh God". The Lord said to Ezekiel, "Get on that little promontory over there and speak to these dry bones." Ezekiel complied with the command of God. When he complied with the command of God and spoke, there came a shaking and a noise, and bone came to his bone, and a lot of skeletons were lying about. Over those skeletons came the sinews, the flesh and the skin and they were there an exceeding great army, yet with no breath in them. The angel visitor said to Ezekiel again. "Son of man, can these things live?" He said, "Thou knowest oh God." He said, "Prophecy to the four winds and say, "Oh ye four winds breathe on these slain." Ezekiel did that and the winds blew and they stood up an exceeding great army and shook the entire country around about.

I have heard preachers preach that this was applicable to the church, and the dry bones meant dead sinners and backsliders and when we had a revival they came together bone to bone. Perhaps that might be the secondary meaning, and maybe you might spiritualize it to mean that, but that is not what the Holy Ghost Turned Commentator and said, "Son of man these dry bones are all the house of Israel." It would seem to me that he signified that they were the nation of Israel, scattered hither and yon, out yonder into that nation, out yonder into another nation, over yonder

into still another nation, scattered the entire world around. When their fortune reached the lowest ebb, right down into that day when they had been hounded and persecuted and driven the furthest way from their God and had suffered the longest, God would speak to them again, and there would be a world-wide commotion of some kind, and they would be brought together in that mighty shaking bone to his bone. They would stand again in the "land of promise". Beloved, I believe you and I have seen that very thing in your day and my day.

Under the persecution of Hitler and Stalin, and many of the others, the Jews have gone back to Palestine and have stood an exceeding great army again in their beloved homeland! Insofar as I can see they have not received the breath of the Spirit yet. They are back in their commercial activities. They have their own army. They have their own navy. They have their own money. They reinstated the Hebrew University. They are speaking their own language again. As yet the breath of the eternal Son of God has not come on them. They have gathered back in unbelief.

The next step in the Divine process perhaps will be for God to speak to them again in the mighty rush of wind that will come from heaven and they will be converted to Jesus, their Messiah, and move in a great spiritual force for God. Perhaps the record of Acts 2 in its account of the Day of Pentecost besides being an exact history of the "birthday of the Church", is prophetic of the return of Jesus to the Jews. They will repossess all their land, not only physically but spiritually. Then The Lord Jesus Christ will come back from heaven. He will be received by them. He will set up his 'Millennial throne. You and I shall join the jubilant shouting and blessing of God in "that great day of Almighty God."

I speak to you gray-headed saints to remind you, that in the 24th chapter of Matthew the record says, "when ye see these things begin to come to pass lift up your head for your redemption draweth nigh." Thank God, he is coming soon!

Then you will notice another thing in the thirty-seventh chapter of Ezekiel, The Lord told Ezekiel to take two sticks together, so they would no longer be two sticks, but they would become one stick. Those of you who are Bible scholars will remember about 975 B. C. after King Solomon left the throne that the kingdom of Israel and Judah split into a northern and a southern kingdom. From that time on there were two kingdoms where there should have been one. The House of David should have been ruling over one united kingdom. But it split, one under Jeroboam, and one under Rehoboam. Then there were two kingdoms. They stayed apart, until finally they were engulfed by the gentiles who came and took them captives! But in the last days, the promise was in Ezekiel 37:16, that God would take the two sticks and weld them back together, and make them one kingdom, and bring them back into "the land" as one kingdom, ready for the son of David to come back and rule over them as one household again! I have noticed in this going back to Palestine, recently, you don't hear anything about a northern kingdom, you don't hear anything about a southern kingdom. The whole race is going back as one kingdom! They are getting ready for the Son of David to come back again and rule according to the glorious pattern of God in the land of the Jews! Thank God, my heart is encouraged about the second coming of the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Now so much for the plan that God seems to have for his Jews.

I would like for you to look for a few minutes to the promises God gave the Jews. Back in the 12th chapter of Genesis, God gave Abraham the promise that he would make of him a great

nation. We dealt with that just in passing. There is another wonderful blessing that came also from the Jews. If you will turn to the 9th chapter of the book of Romans you will find that a number of things were given to the Israelites that have never been given to another group in all of the world. If you will turn to the 9th chapter of the book of Romans and the 4th verse you will find these words written, "Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the law and the service of God, and the promises; whose are the fathers of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came who is over all God blessed forever."

Beloved, I now want to dwell on those promises God gave the Jews. To no other race of people on earth did God say, "Thou art my son, I have adopted you." As a national son and thou are my son and you are going to represent me as my son on earth. God Almighty did that to Israel. He never did it to the Egyptians, or to any other race of people. Then to them belongs the adoption.

Not only that but God gave the glory to the Israelitish nation. He has never given it to any other on all the top side of the earth. No other crowd ever stayed in slavery 400 years and came walking out under the high arm and high hand of God, led by a pillar of cloud and smoke until they could have the ground scorched in front of them and their enemies driven back. No other crowd has ever seen the golden shikinah hovering over their churches like the Jews saw it over the tabernacle in the wilderness. God gave them the glory. If we ever get any of the glory, we are going to get it by accepting that man, Jesus Christ. That will bring that glory into our hearts and into our lives.

Not only did God give the Jews the adoption and the glory but the record here says God gave them the covenants. God never did enter into a covenant with any other nation I've ever found but the nation of Israel. God made several covenants with them. The first one that was directed to Jews only, was the Abrahamic covenant. God kept renewing that covenant down across the years. God has never forgotten that covenant. Would you pause with me just a minute and examine the covenant? A covenant to be binding must have somebody that gives that covenant and somebody that receives that covenant. God Almighty gave it, the Jews received it. Then the Jews, to some extent turned aside from it. God then opened a doorway in the side of it, and let you and me, the Gentile church into that covenant. We ought to shout to rejoice today in that we are included in the covenant of grace and can find our resting place among them that are Jews inwardly, if not outwardly, by the circumcision of the heart. Thank God for that ability!

Then he said the next thing he gave to the Jews was that he gave the law to them. God did not give the law to the Romans although some would like to have you think so. God did not give the law to the polished Greeks. God did not give the law to the English, or the Americans, but God gave the law to the Israel. Back in the book of Exodus God got them down to Mt. Sinai one morning. God said to Moses, "Get them back from that mountain, do not let a single, solitary one put his hand on that mountain, for if you do he will die the moment he puts his hand on it." That morning while the mountain trembled and was a-smoke, Moses took his staff and disappeared in the midst of that mountain. Forty days later he appeared again with a shining face. Someday I am going to preach a sermon on the Order of the Shining Face. Moses came down and had to hang a veil over his face, he had so much of the glory of God on him. when Stephen was on trial he looked up and they beheld his face and it looked like that of an angel. I have heard about a lot of the sanctified that got a shining face when God sanctified them wholly and they got into that "order

of the shining face." But enough to be said along there, Moses came down with a decalogue and on that decalogue has been founded the entire human code around the world. God gave the law to Israel.

Another thing that God gave to Israel, he said he gave the services of God. Of all the beautiful ritual that has ever been known to anybody on earth, it is the ritual that the Jewish nation had around the temple, with all the priests serving in their various courses, doing various acts of worship. The Levites and the sweet singers coming on the scene at certain times. All the sacrifices, all the very colorings of the hangings in the temple -were symbolic of certain divine things. From the tabernacle in the wilderness to the mighty temple that Solomon builded on the threshing floor of Moriah in Jerusalem, God gave the Jewish nation the grandest ritual that ever was in the world, that ritual pointing toward one grand event in history. That grand event was accomplished when the Son of the living God became the eternal Lamb of God, led before his sharers, dumb, and into slaughter, opening not his mouth, while he hanged on an altar of his own making. By the eternal Spirit he offered himself an everlasting oblation for the sins of the entire race. At the very same time the sword of justice drawing itself out of its sheath behind the mercy seat and fell across the veil separating the holy of holies from the other courts of the temple, forever rending the veil, letting you and me into the holiest by the blood of the everlasting covenant of the Son of the living God. All the Jewish rituals together spin themselves into one lovely damask and that had at its center the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. He became the everlasting high priest and ascended into heaven to take his place at the right hand of God. He did not say that we should continue by ritual to approach God. Every one of us being priests and kings unto God, could have the right by his own precious blood, when we are sanctified wholly, to enter into the holiest, and have boldness to talk to him, and to be a priest for ourselves and the waiting crowd around us. To have the right to get blessed of God without ritual, without the tintinnabulation of silver bells, or the rattle of golden pomegranates, or the putting on of the long flowing linen robes, or the hanging on of the breastplate with the twelve stones set therein. But each one of us by the circumcision of the heart, could walk through the new and living way, back through the veil, having boldness to address him in the glorious service of Almighty God! Thank God for the gift of the services of God.

Then you will notice in the fifth verse, "whose are the fathers?" I think that refers to the twelve patriarchs. No other race of people on earth did God give a class of men, and call them the Fathers. Until we look back to them and talk about them being the "fathers of the faithful".

Then you will notice the last thing he gave, and that is the best of all, he let fall through the golden channel of the Jewish race. That in these last days was Jesus Christ the greatest gift of all! As wonderful as the glory was in the tabernacle days, as marvelous as it was to have the fathers, as beautiful as the ritualistic worship of the Jews was, as lovely as all of those things were, the great climax, the capstone of all of it, everything was summed up in Jesus Christ. When that little brown-eyed Jewish maiden rode the back of that little donkey down the hillsides and defiles of the land of Judah, into Bethlehem, the least of the princesses of Judea, and the evening sun dropped away like a bright, burning, brass nickel into the big blue-velvet coffer of the night, and Joseph walked into the slumbering town of Bethlehem knocking on hotel doors and finding no lodging place, God was ready with his mightiest blessing for humanity through the Jews! Someone said to him, "Down yonder is a cave where the Romans keep their stock, if you go down there you might get out of the chill of the night." He turned back to Mary already with her cheeks burning with the

expectancy of the birth of her first begotten Son. Every step led nearer to history's greatest event, the last blessing to the world through Israel! That night, while a yellow taper flickered in a crevice in the wall, and oxen chewed their cuds, and clicked their horns one against the other, and the sheep bedded down in their fold, a whimpering cry broke out on the air of that stable, and the Son of God had come into the world, as the last great gift through the Jewish race. Sometimes when I get to thinking how good God has been to Israel and what God has done to Israel I sometimes wish I was a converted Jew myself so I could enter into those wonderful things and shout and praise God like I want to!

Now we will leave that thought for a minute and drop back to basic inflections and pick up another of the skeins in the damask we are trying to weave for you by the help of God. The next thing, I'd like to show you God's protection for his Jews. Just as soon as God called to Abraham in the land of the Chaldees and said, "Come out, I'm going to make you a mighty blessing to all the world," the devil set his forces in battle array. He began to cannonade and thunder. He got all his swords whetted up real sharp and began to hack and hew. He sent all his little imps and devils around to chortle and cajole trying to get the scheme on a detour. At one time, Abraham got confused, and got down in Egypt, and told a lie and liked to have gotten everybody killed because of it. God fished him out of that, and said to the devil, "You leave him alone, I'm running his affairs". It was not much longer until Abraham and Sarah got in a hurry and brought Hagar, the Egyptian servant girl; onto the scene of the illegitimate union, there came Ishmael. Out of that Ishmael affair came all the trouble the Jews have faced with the Arabs down across the years. Yet, God said, "I have got something bigger than that; I will override that. You cast out the bondwoman and her son, get rid of them. I am going to have your seed called in Isaac." All along God kept directing the whole plan, in spite of Satan's interference.

By and by Pharaoh said, "I'll get rid of that Jewish line!" The devil stood beside the glittering throne of Egypt, and said, "Go right on Pharaoh and I'll tell your old depraved brain exactly what to do, you have those Jew babies drowned when they come to birth." God Almighty spoke to the Hebrew midwives and said, "You make the excuse that the Hebrew ladies were so lively they gave birth before you could get on the case and you can't do a thing on earth about it!" The devil said, "I'll tell you what to do with them, if I were you, I'd have every male baby fed to the crocodiles in the Nile River." God Almighty said, "Now you Jews just be quiet, I have my hand on all these things!"

In the household of Amram and Jochebed there came a little child, that the New Testament called "a goodly child". They loved him, and hid him in the house for a while, until his baby cries got strong enough to penetrate the mud walls around him. One night his mother heard God say, "Go down in the morning, and pluck the bulrushes that stand by the Nile River, and weave a basket with your fingers, motivated by mother love. Pitch it inside and out, to make it waterproof. Make a top for it, to cover it, to keep the sun out of the little lad's eyes. Early in the morning take your little daughter Miriam and station her on sentry in the bulrushes and the cattails, among the big iris. Station her by the river, and let her watch there. Kiss that little baby boy, for you will not have to kiss him good-bye, it will just be for a few minutes, and shove him out in the water. That morning the Egyptian overseers walked down to their overseeing of the pyramids, and the slave-driven Jews went back to their brick kilns, and Miriam crouched in the tall rushes on the river bank, and



every rustle she thought to be a snake, but the Lord seemed to put his hand on her, and still her voice, and quiet her heart.

The daughter of the king walked down that day and saw something out on the bosom of the river, rising and falling. Riding low, and riding high, as if God Almighty had spoken to the wind of the west and said, "Rock the cradle of my chosen son lying there until he will not wake up and cry until I am ready!" Praise God, who can rock a cradle on the bosom of the Blue Nile!

A dusky Egyptian lass bound her skirts around her loins, and walked out in the water knee deep and fished in the little bulrush basket, and lifted back the top and the Record talked about Moses crying, and when that golden tear, shimmering in the sunlight of Egypt, coursed down his little Hebrew cheek, God tied up in the history of the human race for all times to come. Love seized that mother's heart and she lifted that little baby boy up and kissed him and said, "I'll call him Moses. I rescued him out of the hand of the water!" She thus named him after the Egyptian water God.

About that time Miriam came out, and the Holy Ghost placed words in her mouth, and she said, "You are an Egyptian woman and you might kill that baby. You would feed him some kind of food that Hebrew babies don't know how to eat, let me go over yonder, for I know where there is a Hebrew mother that had a baby just the age of him, and she will know exactly what to do about him, and I'll bring her in." Go get her! I see the dust curl in the road, as Miriam makes a break for that Hebrew mother, and she brought back Moses' own mother. God Almighty let her rear her own baby, and love him to her heart's desire and made the devil pay the bill. Glory be to God! For God's wonderful protection of his Jewish race.

I could go on with Moses, but we will have to drop him, and by inspiration dance down across the years a long time. We'll find now in the book of Esther where the Jews are down in Babylonian captivity. An old reprobate called Haman is desiring to get rid of all the Jews, Mordecai an old Jew got wind of it, and he went around to Queen Esther and said, "You have been chosen to be queen of this realm, and I tell you that old fellow is going to get rid of me and all the other Jews, but if you will go into the king of Persia and tell him about our flight, I believe God will help you!" She said, "We are going to a fasting meeting." She called all the women to fast and pray. Mordecai called all the Jewish men to fast and pray. At the close of a season, Esther went before Ahasuerus and found grace in his sight. The Jews were spared, and the devil's man got hanged on the gallows that had been made to hang God's servant on! That is the way the Lord does a lot of times. Thank God for the protection of the Jews.

If we will come on down across history, even my day and yours, we will find where the Jewish race has been persecuted and hounded and driven into its ghettos and destroyed and burned. Jewish heads have been cut off, until one historian said they got down to 10,000 at one time! Always God had that remnant. Always God had that seed. If you turn to the book of Revelation, you will find there will be 144,000 of them, 12,000 out of every one of the twelve tribes who are going to be brought through the tribulation with their robes white and will walk around following the lamb, wheresoever he goes. God Almighty will protect the Jewish race, and with that race will protect the blessing that you and I must have.

Then again we want to look a bit farther. We want to see what God's purpose for the Jews is. I think I have already touched that a time or two, let me go back and recapitulate. The one great purpose for the Jews was that they would produce the Messiah. That Messiah would be the Son of the living God. That Messiah would be our Redeemer and our Saviour. Then, thanks be unto God, if you and I will take advantage of Him, you and I, by the grace of the living God, will share all the benefits of God purported for his chosen people.

I was thinking of what Dr. Hardy touched on yesterday morning. I do not presume to do it half so well as he, but it has always enthralled me. In the fifth chapter in the book of Revelation, after the rapture of the church which I believe to take place in the 4th chapter, (you may disagree with that, but I fully believe that with all my heart the rapture to be in verse one of chapter four.) You will find in the fifth chapter where there was a book sealed with seven seals. Now you must recognize in the day that John wrote books were not printed like they are here. Undoubtedly he had reference to a scroll. A big manuscript of papyrus rolled together, rolled into a tube and sealed with seven seals. As Dr. Hardy told you that was a great title deed. A man mortgaged a piece of land, back in the old Jewish economy, and that mortgage was rolled up, and sealed with seven seals and laid back in the temple. The only person that could ever redeem that was one who was near of kin, called the kinsman-redeemer. He could come back and say, "My brother has lost his piece of land, and I have come to pay the mortgage off and regain his property for him. Hand me the deed! I'll break the seal and see the boundaries to his land and I'll give it back to him for I will pay the specified price."

I am told by Bible historians that in the beginning of that setup, there were two scrolls made. One scroll contained the boundaries of the property and was placed out of sight, for safe-keeping, back in a certain place in the temple or the synagogue; this scroll was sealed with seven seals. Another scroll was made that contained the terms of that mortgage, how much money would have to be given before the seals of the title deed could be broken and the boundaries discovered to be set up again. By and by it dissolved into this, that they wrote one scroll. The boundary lines were written on the inside. On the outside were the terms on the mortgage. If you will read the fifth chapter of Revelations, you will find that that book, sealed with seven seals, was written on the inside and the back side. The back side told the specified demands for the payment of that mortgage. The inside described exactly the mortgaged property giving its boundaries. After John looked and saw no person in heaven who could open that seal, he wept violently. I do not know if the devil holloed over the walls of heaven, and suggested to him, "John, see you have missed it after all, I still have the world down here, and everything in it. There is not going to be a millennium, I still have my hands on everything!" One of the angels said, "Get up, and weep not, for there is one mighty enough to break every seal on the deed! He is the lion of the tribe of Juda, he is the bright and morning star." John said, "While I looked the Lamb walked over and laid his hand on the book and got ready to break those seals." There was silence in heaven.

When he broke the first seal, the first horse of the Apocalypse galloped out. When he broke the second seal the next horse galloped out. He broke them down through the sixth seal! With the breaking of each successive seal a convulsion ran over the devil's universe, which he held under mortgage, until there were earthquakes and falling stars and removing islands!

When he prepared to break the seventh seal, out marched seven big angels with trumpets in their hands, and made ready to blow. when the Lamb broke that seventh seal, the first angel blew, and they blew in their order, until six angels had blown their trumpets.

The seventh angel prepared to blow. There came unto the scene seven other angels, with seven vials of the seven last plagues. When he blew that last trumpet, they opened those seven vials, and began to pour their contents out! When that was accomplished, the Lord Jesus Christ came riding out on a white charger, and his name was "The Lord of Lords" and "The King of Kings". He came down to this earth, bringing his saints with him. He took over the great millennial throne and ruled with his saints for a thousand years.

With the breaking of the seventh seal, Jesus, our gracious kinsman-redeemer finally broke the last seal on the satan-held mortgage on the universe. He will thus free us totally one glad day from all the thralldom of the devil.

I'm looking forward to that day, aren't you? Beloved that is what I was bringing you down to, right here! He promised back in the book of Isaiah, the 35th chapter, that he would make the desert bloom like the rose. He would make singing break out in the solitary place, he would make the waters come gurgling down through the land. He would make the lion and the ox lie down together. He would give the whole thing a grand retouch and rule it on earth for a thousand years! I want to be in that number when he sets up that grand and glorious millennial reign.

Where do you and I enter into these glorious events? What are God's provisions to bring you and me into these blessings? If you will turn to Romans 11:17-21, to the olive orchard reference, you will find it. There is the big olive tree representing Israel. She backslid, and God reached down and stripped off a branch and cast it away. He then reached down into the gentile world, and stripped off a wild olive branch, and engrafted that scion into Israel, so that you and I, who are not Jews by blood became Jews by nature! So you and I, who are not of the Abrahamic covenant got into the covenant of grace by the engrafting of the power of God. You and I today may lift up our hearts in praise as we join with that great multitude, which marches toward Zion's lovely city. We can wave our banners in the air above us. We can shout "Hosanna" to the king of Israel! We can dance in the streets like David. We can get blessed of God right here. We can walk into the healing waters of the sanctifying fountain of the Son of the living God and walk out on the other side with every sin washed away and carnality eradicated out of our hearts! You and I can lift our heads and say, "the fig is a-budding, and the sound of the turtle is in the land, and it is not going to be long until he will come, skipping down across the clouds, and leaping down over the hills, to claim his beloved to belong to him forever and ever. Hallelujah be to the king forever."

A young man had to go away, and he kissed his bride, and said, "I'm going to a foreign land, when I have gained a fortune for us, I'm coming back again to marry you and we'll live happily ever after. I'll be back on a certain day. when the old 'sailing ship comes into harbor I'll be on the promenade deck ready to come down, and claim you as my bride".

On that morning she tied her hair, and dressed herself with her most lovely apparel and walked down toward the harbor. Somebody said, "Where are you going? It's so dirty and dingy down by the harbor, you are dressed up so very nicely this morning?" She returned, "My lover's

ship is going to dock today, and he said he would be on the deck and I want to be down there looking up, ready when he walks down the gangplank. I want to lean on his own right arm, and feel him near me and I want to walk with him to the place where we will be joined together forever in our marriage ceremony."

The world says, "what are you holiness people shouting about? You haven't got any sense anyhow, you are going down in the back alleys and trying to rescue a bunch of heathen down there. what is the matter with you? You ought to buy big televisions and automobiles and settle down and have a good time!" "Oh no," we said, "we received a holy telegram, the other night, in the midnight hour, that Old Zion was sweeping near amid the turbulent seas, and that our lover was on the battle-deck and that by the grace of the living God, he would be waiting for us and wanted us to be waiting for him. We have no time to tarry. Shut up your song, keep that to yourself, we are going alone to meet our Saviour! He is coming down to claim us. we are going to be in that rapture, thank God, forever." It is not going to be too long.

Methinks I can see the long lengthening shadows of eventide, as they stretch out into purple twilight. I believe the gentile dispensation has about run its course. It seems as if I can almost hear the grind of the chariot wheels as the Son of the living God is on his way back. I'm looking for him to come, are you? If you are looking for him to come, let us fill the air with a hallelujah anthem, let's lift high our heads and hearts and voices and challenge the world, the devil, and everybody else, to walk in with the glory of God.

The devil's leveled his big guns and churned the earth up with his awful barrage. The sulfurous smoke has hung over a million battlefields, Zion's little army has backed off in a corner somewhere and some of them have been a bit cowarded, some of them have been a bit defeated, but I think of a story that came out of the Civil War. I went North one time to hold a revival in the state of Illinois and was sitting on the front porch of one of the sons of an old Yankee soldier, he said to me, "Mr. Hicks, you are a southern lad, aren't you?" I said, "I surely am a southern lad." I kinda straightened up all my six feet four inches. He said, "Would you accept a compliment from the son of a Yankee soldier to the grandson of some southern soldiers." I said, "Sir, I'll receive that compliment, what is it?" He said, "My father's regiment had marched all day long retreating before a southern army. At the close of the day they dug along the edge in a field of five hundred rolling acres of bluegrass, the southern army formed in battle line on the other side of the field. The commander of the northern regiment said, "Don't shoot until they get near enough so you can see their eyes, then shoot, and shoot to kill!" He said "About that time the southern bugler folded his hat brim back and lifted the bugle to his lips and sounded a charge. With guns with bayonets fixed they marched, like they were marching on parade right across that field and almost within reach of the northern gun muzzles, until a sheet of flame leaped from those muskets and cut them down, until it looked as if scarcely a man was standing. As they writhed, and tumbled in their own gore that bugler stepped out again and sounded the second charge. That many more men formed a new line and walked right across that field and were shot down on top of their comrades. A third group formed at the bugle call and marched across that field, and were shot down also. The commanders could stand the carnage no longer, a truce was put up. The southern commander and the northern general met in the middle of a field. The northern general said, "I've never seen as brave men in my life! How many more men have you got?" The southern officer said, "Enough for one more charge, and we're ready to make that now!" I tell you that to tell the devil, and everybody else, the old

holiness movement has got enough left for one more charge! I think I can hear a trumpet across the walls of glory! We are ready to make that charge today, by the grace of God!

When Napoleon had marched against the Duke of Austria, and had come to the field of Marengo, he said, "I'll defeat the Austrian Duke here today!" All day long the battle raged and the cannons thundered and along toward eventide one of the marshals rode up and said " 'Sir ' you are going to have to retreat across the river, and wait for reinforcements to come up tomorrow then we will take the day." The "Little Corporal" stationed himself in the stirrup-seat and said, "You know it has always been my custom to sleep on the battlefield." The French marshal said, "But sir, you will not do it tonight! The Old Guard now can hardly hold back the hordes of Austria." Napoleon turned to a little waif that somebody had picked up off the streets of Paris and taught him the signals of the French army, in the day when they were given by drum-beat, and said to the little lad, "Beat a retreat!" With his little grimy face, bleeding with a saber cut across his right cheek, his little blue uniform all tattered and torn by explosion, he looked up with tears coursing down and said, "Sir, when you taught me the signals of the French army, you didn't teach me how to beat a retreat! But if you will give me leave to, I'll beat a charge, I'll beat it till dead Frenchmen will stir in their graves to fight for the Emperor!" The general said, "Beat that charge." The little boy fell onto his drum, and the wounded and dying raised up to cheer, "Vive! Empereur!" The Old Guard rallied! The other Frenchmen rallied! They swept the field before them, won the day! Napoleon slept on the battlefield. I suppose when they marched back down through Paris, to receive the ovation of the French nation, dressed in blue and gold that little drummer boy beat the cadence as they marched!

Beloved, I think today I can hear God's great host of heaven as they thunder out another charge. I believe the dead in the graves are about ready to stir! My old heart is stirring too! I think I can tiptoe a little, and get my head into the ethereal of the heavenlies, and get blessed of God, and say, "I'm ready right now, by the grace of God, to come home to glory if the Lord so ordains!" Blessed be God Forever. Who are the Israelites anyhow? They are that grand throng of Jews and Gentiles that are going to make it into heaven by the grace of God and the everlasting covenant of his grace that will get us all home to heaven. Glory be to God!

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THE END